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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: : Motoshi HAMASAKI, et al.
Filed: : Concurrently herewith
For: : COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, METHOD
Serial No. : Concurrently herewith

December 28, 2001

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 5 line 16 with the following:

According to the arrangement of the ATM-PON 100 shown in FIG. 61, a main signal generated from the OLT 101 is distributed through the passive device 102 in a passive manner. Therefore, it is physically impossible to distribute the signal (message) from the OLT 101 to a selected one of ONUs 103. Accordingly, all of the ONUs 103 once receive the same signal and each of the units 103 determines whether the received signal shall be discarded or not depending on whether or not the PON-ID attached to the received signal (at the PON-ID field 113) is coincident with its own identification number. In this way, the signal can be selectively received.